

JOSHUA EILBERG
MEMBER
4TH DISTRICT, PENNSYLVANIA

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SUBCOMMITTEE ON COAST GUARD AND
NAVIGATION

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

October 20, 1977

OFFICES:
2135 TRAVERNER HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515
TEL. 225-4661 AREA CODE 202

216 FIRST FEDERAL BUILDING
CASTLE ROCK COTTAGE AVENUE
PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA 19111
TEL. RA1-1717 AREA CODE 215

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
RECEIVED
OCT 29 1977
MR. VANCE
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE
WASHINGTON, D.C.

Honorable Cyrus R. Vance
Secretary
Department of State
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Secretary:

I have long advocated regulating the discretionary parole authority exercised in the past by the Attorney General in emergency refugee situations. The delay in the enactment of present legislation in this domain requires me to call to your attention an emergency refugee situation in Rome involving some 4,000 Soviet refugees, both Jews and non-Jews, whose processing for the United States has been blocked because of the unavailability of conditional entry numbers and non-immigrant visas. In addition, it has been reported that there will continue to be an influx of some 1,000 new entries per month until the end of the year.

This situation gives me great concern.

I, therefore, wish to request that you recommend to the Attorney General that he exercise his discretionary authority under Section 212(d)(5) of the Immigration and Nationality Act to parole into the United States 5,000 refugees from the Soviet Union within the six months ending May 1, 1978. These 5,000 persons will be in addition to those refugees which would normally be processed through the conditional entry route.

The United States has consistently pressed the Soviet Union to ease their restrictions on emigration, especially with regard to Jews in their country.

The United States has also continuously given assurances to the Italian and Austrian governments that it would not permit an excessive buildup of Soviet refugees in return for their humanitarian gesture to allow these refugees to remain in their country while being processed for the United States.

For these reasons, the present emergency situation in Rome must be resolved in order to avoid giving the Soviet Union any cause for stopping the issuance of exit permits or the Italians and Austrians of according new refugees temporary asylum.

It is my hope that in the next session of Congress we may proceed expeditiously on my proposed bill H.R. 7175 which would obviate the necessity of resorting to these stop gap measures each time an emergency comes up.

In the meantime, I would be most grateful if you could give this parole request your support and prompt attention.

With personal regards.

Sincerely,


JOSHUA EILBERG

JE:prd